

ADAM WANG, Bar No. 201233
LAW OFFICES OF ADAM WANG
12 South First Street, Suite 613
San Jose, CA 95113
Telephone: 408-292-1040
Fax: 408-416-0248
waqw@sbcglobal.net

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICARDO TAVARES, JOEL RODRIGUEZ

Plaintiffs,

vs.

DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION, KURT
ROBERT HOGAN SR., RAMON DURAN
JR., SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN, MARIA
ELENA HOGAN AND DOES 1-10

Defendants

Defendants

Case No.: C08-1277 HRL

COMPLAINT & DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Federal FLSA Claim:

1. Failure to pay overtime and minimum wage: 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 216(b), and 255(a);

California State Claims:

2. Failure to pay overtime and minimum wages (California Labor Code §§ 1194(a); 1815);

3. Breach of Contract

4. Failure to provide meal period (California Labor Code § 226.7)

5. Failure to Provide Accurate Pay Stubs and Records; Submitting False and Fraudulent Certified Payroll Records (California Labor Code §§ 226, 1174, 1776, IWC Wage Order No. 16 § 6);

6. Failure to Pay Wages Due at End of Employment (California Labor Code §§ 201, 203);

7. Violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200.

NATURE OF CLAIM

1. This is a action by two construction workers against their employers for unpaid wages, interest, penalties, damages and attorneys' fees and costs arising out of the failure to pay all wages for labor discharged including but not limited to overtime and minimum wages as required by the Fair Labor Standards Act and California law. The plaintiffs seek compensatory

1 damages for unpaid wages in addition to liquidated damages under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), waiting
2 time penalties under California Labor Code § 203, a liquidated damages assessment under
3 California Labor Code § 1194.2, penalties under California Labor Code § 226 (wage stub
4 violations), attorney's fees, costs, and pre-judgment interest pursuant to California Labor Code
5 §1194(a) and 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

6 2. Plaintiffs had performed labor on projects funded in whole or in part by
7 government funds ("Public Works Projects") and is entitled to the payment of Prevailing Wages
8 as determined and disseminated by the State of California's Department of Industrial Relations.
9 Said Prevailing Wage obligations make these projects more expensive and cost local and state
10 governments, and in turn taxpayers, more money because of the guaranteed hourly wage
11 earmarked to construction workers. The failure to pay Prevailing Wages, therefore, results in an
12 injury to affected workers and the public at large as public funds, for the benefit of construction
13 workers, are diverted to responsible parties.

14 **SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15 3. Subject matter jurisdiction of this action of this Court is based upon Fair Labor
16 Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §§201 *et. seq.* and the pendant jurisdiction of this Court.

17 4. This Court is a proper venue, since all events giving rise to the claims of the
18 Plaintiffs.

19 **PARTIES**

20 5. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff RICARDO TAVARES is an individual
21 resident of San Jose, California.

22 6. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff JOEL RODRIGUEZ is an individual
23 resident of San Jose, California.

24 7. At all times relevant herein, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION is a
25 California corporation engaged in construction business. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and

thereupon allege that DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION was hired in execution of various public works construction projects ("PROJECTS"), which are funded in whole or in part by the public funds of various local, state or federal government or public entities.

8. Individual Defendants KURT ROBERT HOGAN SR., RAMON DURAN JR., SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN, MARIA ELENA HOGAN and DOES 1-10, at all times relevant herein, are, according to information and belief, officers, owners, or employees of DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION, having control over the Plaintiffs' work conditions and work situations.

9. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and therefore allege that individual Defendants KURT ROBERT HOGAN SR., RAMON DURAN JR., SYLVIA GARCIA HOGAN, MARIA ELENA HOGAN and DOES 1-10 are jointly and severally liable under for the underpayment of prevailing wages under California Labor section 1722.1 which states:

For the purposes of this chapter, "contractor" and "subcontractor" include a contractor, subcontractor, licensee, officer, agent, or representative thereof, acting in that capacity, when working on public works pursuant to this article and Article 2 (commencing with Section 1770).

10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon allege that DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION had employed Plaintiffs as construction workers on the PROJECTS.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

11. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION employed Plaintiffs at all relevant times within the statute of limitations in this action on PROJECTS.

12. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION compensated Plaintiffs for their labor at a rate of pay below the prevailing wage rate of pay for the classification of their labor.

1 13. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION did not compensate Plaintiffs
2 for their labor by making any fringe benefit contributions that could offset the prevailing wage
3 rate of pay for the classification of his labor.

4 14. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION did not compensate Plaintiffs
5 for their labor by paying overtime wages when due and owing.

6 15. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION did not authorize or permit
7 Plaintiffs to take 30-minute unpaid meal periods when he worked every 5 hours.

8
9 **COUNT ONE**

10 *Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act*

11 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 216(b), and 255(a)

12 *Failure to Pay Overtime Wages and Minimum Wages*

13 16. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-15 as if fully
14 stated herein.

15 17. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiffs' employment was subject to the provisions
16 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended ("FLSA"), 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.*

17 18. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION is an enterprises engaged in
18 commerce or in the production of goods for commerce as defined by FLSA.

19 19. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION routinely required and/or
20 suffered or permitted Plaintiffs to work more than 40 hours per week without paying them
21 required overtime wage for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week.

22 20. In failing to pay Plaintiffs overtime wages at one-and-one-half times their regular
23 rate of pay, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION willfully violated the FLSA.

24 21. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' failure to pay proper wages under
25 the FLSA, Plaintiffs incurred general damages in the form of lost overtime wages in an amount
to be proved at trial.

22. Defendants intentionally, with reckless disregard for their responsibilities under the FLSA, and without good cause, failed to pay Plaintiffs their proper wages, thus Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION is liable to Plaintiffs for liquidated damages in an amount equal to their lost wages over a three year statute of limitations pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 216(b) & 255(a) of the FLSA.

23. Plaintiffs were required to retain legal assistance in order to bring this action and, as such, are entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to the FLSA.

COUNT TWO

Violation of California Labor Code §§ 510, 1771 & 1194 Failure to Properly Pay Minimum Wages and Overtime on Public Works and Private Construction Projects

24. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate paragraphs 1-23 as if fully stated herein.

25. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiffs were employed in execution of the PROJECTS which were and are subject to the prevailing wage laws of the State of California pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1771 & 1774, regarding work undertaken on public construction projects. Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1771 & 1774, all employees, including Plaintiffs, hired in execution of PROJECTS, shall be paid for their work on the PROJECTS not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for work of a similar character in the locality in which the public work is performed, and not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for holiday and overtime work. Said Prevailing Wage rates are disseminated by the State of California's Department of Industrial Relations and pursuant to California laws and Regulations all contractors in the execution of a public works construction project are mandated by law to pay these minimum wages.

26. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION were subject to the prevailing wage laws of the State of California pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1771, 1774 and 1815, regarding work undertaken on public works construction projects.

1 Pursuant to Labor Code §§1771, 1774 and 1815, Defendant DURAN HOGAN
2 CONSTRUCTION had a duty to pay its employees on such projects, including Plaintiffs who
3 were employed in the execution of the contract of the PROJECTS, not less than one and one-
4 half times their basic prevailing rate of pay for holiday and overtime work, as specified in
5 annual and semi-annual bulletins published by the California Department of Industrial
6 Relations.

7 27. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION
8 was subject to the overtime wage laws of the State of California pursuant to Labor Code §510,
9 regarding work undertaken on private construction projects. Pursuant to Labor Code §510,
10 Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION had a duty to pay its employees, including
11 Plaintiffs, who worked on such private constructions projects not less than the one and one-half
12 times their contractually agreed upon regular rate of pay for non-public works construction
13 projects for all hours worked in excess of 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week.

14 28. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon contend that for work
15 performed on PROJECTS, they were paid less than the required minimum prevailing rate for
16 non-holiday and non-overtime hours and less than the required minimum prevailing rate for
17 holiday and overtime work as required by Labor Code §§1771, 1774 and 1815; and for non-
18 public works construction projects he was paid less than one and one-half times his regular rate
19 of pay, or not at all, for the hours worked in excess of 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week as
20 required by California Labor Code § 510.

21 29. Plaintiffs therefore contend that for their work performed on PROJECTS,
22 Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION violated Labor Code §§ 1771, 1774 and 1815,
23 specifically by failing and refusing to comply with the statutory duty to pay Plaintiffs or to
24 ensure that Plaintiffs be paid, prevailing wages and prevailing wage for holiday and overtime
25 work as required by the contracts and by statute. Plaintiffs also contend that for non-public

1 works construction projects, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION violated Labor
2 Code §510, specifically by failing and refusing to comply with the statutory duty to pay
3 Plaintiffs one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of 8 hours
4 a day or 40 hours a week as required by statute.

5 30. Pursuant to Labor Code § 1194, for his work on PROJECTS, Plaintiffs seek as
6 earned but not paid minimum prevailing wages and required minimum prevailing wage for
7 holiday and overtime work; and for their work on non-pubic works construction projects,
8 Plaintiffs seek as earned but unpaid overtime compensation for hours worked in excess of 8
9 hours a day or 40 hours a week. Plaintiffs are entitled to and therefore requests an award of
10 pre-judgment interest on the unpaid wages set forth herein.

11 31. Plaintiffs have incurred, and will continue to incur, attorneys' fees in the
12 prosecution of this action and therefore demands such reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as set
13 by the court pursuant to California Labor Code § 1194.

14 **COUNT THREE**
15 **BREACH OF CONTRACT -THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY**

16 32. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein each of the
17 allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 31.

18 33. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon allege that during the
19 relevant time periods mentioned herein, the general contractor(s) for the PROJECTs and
20 awarding body(or awarding bodies) of the PROJECTS entered into public works construction
21 written contracts for the PROJECTS. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon
22 allege that various contracts have been entered into among the general contractor(s) of the
23 POROJECTS, various subcontractors, including DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION in
24 connection with the PROJECTS. These contracts are hereinafter referred to as CONTRACTS.
25

1 34. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon allege that the
2 CONTRACTS required Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION and each of them, to
3 comply with all applicable legal requirements for work undertaken on public works projects and
4 ensure subcontractors in connection with the PROJECTS to comply with all such laws,
5 including payment of prevailing wages pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1770 et seq.

6 35. Except as excused by the wrongful conduct of Defendant DURAN HOGAN
7 CONSTRUCTION, Plaintiffs have performed all conditions required to be performed by them
8 under the CONTRACTS .

9 36. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon allege that Defendant
10 DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION breached the CONTRACTS by failing to pay prevailing
11 wages as required by the CONTRACTS, and as required by California law, and by failing to
12 submit truthful and accurate Certified Payroll Records to the public bodies awarding the
13 CONTRACTS. Plaintiffs were damaged by the failure of Defendant DURAN HOGAN
14 CONSTRUCTION to pay prevailing wages.

15 37. Plaintiffs have standing as intended third-party beneficiaries of the CONTRACTS
16 to assert said claims.

17 38. As a result of breach of the CONTRACTS by Defendant DURAN HOGAN
18 CONSTRUCTION, as more fully set forth herein, Plaintiffs were damaged in an amount to be
19 proved at trial.

20 39. Plaintiffs seek as contractual damages earned but unpaid wages being the
21 difference between the amount paid and the prevailing wage rate as determined by the Director
22 of Industrial Relations.

23 40. Plaintiffs are entitled to and therefore request an award of pre-judgment interest
24 on the unpaid wages set forth herein.
25

1 52. Plaintiffs have incurred, and will continue to incur attorney fees in the prosecution
2 of this action.

3 **COUNT SIX**

4 *California Labor Code Section 203*

5 *Waiting Time Penalties*

6 53. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-52 as if fully
7 stated herein.

8 54. At the time Plaintiffs' employment with Defendant was terminated, Defendant
9 DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION owed Plaintiffs certain unpaid prevailing minimum
10 wage, overtime wages and meal period premiums as previously alleged, and such wages owed
11 each Plaintiff were ascertainable at the time of termination.

12 55. Failure to pay wages owed at an employee's termination as required by Labor
13 Code §201 subjects the employer to the payment of a penalty equaling up to 30 days wages, as
14 provided for in Labor Code § 203.

15 56. As of this date, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION has failed and
16 refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to pay the amount due, thus making Defendant
17 DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION liable to each Plaintiff for penalties equal to thirty (30)
18 days wages.

19 **COUNT SEVEN**

20 *Violation of California Business & Professions Code §17200*

21 *Restitution for Unfair Business Practices*

22 57. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-56 as if fully
23 stated herein.

24 58. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiffs' employment with Defendant DURAN
25 HOGAN CONSTRUCTION was subject to FLSA and California Labor Code and applicable
Wage Orders promulgated by the California Industrial Welfare Commission, which required all
employees to be paid certain minimum prevailing wages, overtime for work performed in

1 excess of 40 hours per week or 8 hours per day unless specifically exempted by the law, and
2 also required Plaintiffs to be paid premium pay for missed meal/rest periods.

3 59. At all times relevant herein, the employer of Plaintiffs, Defendant DURAN
4 HOGAN CONSTRUCTION was subject to the California Unfair Trade Practices Act
5 (California Business and Professions Code § §17000 et seq.), but failed to pay Plaintiffs certain
6 minimum prevailing wages, overtime pay as required by applicable state and federal laws and
7 failed to pay premium pay for missed meal/rest periods, to all of which Plaintiffs were legally
8 entitled, with Defendants keeping to themselves the amount which should have been paid to
9 Plaintiffs.

10 60. In doing so, Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION violated California
11 Unfair Trade Practices Act, Business and Professions Code §17200, et seq. by committing acts
12 prohibited by applicable FLSA and California Labor Code provisions, IWC Wage Orders, and
13 thus giving them a competitive advantage over other employers and businesses with whom
14 Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION was in competition and who were in
15 compliance with the law.

16 61. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant DURAN HOGAN
17 CONSTRUCTION's violations and failure to pay the required minimum prevailing wages and
18 overtime pay, Plaintiffs' rights under the law were violated and Plaintiffs incurred general
19 damages in the form of unpaid wages in amount to be proved at trial.

20 62. Defendant DURAN HOGAN CONSTRUCTION had been aware of the existence
21 and requirements of the Unfair Trade Practices Act and the requirements of wage and hour laws
22 as set forth in FLSA and California Labor Code and relevant wage orders, but willfully,
23 knowingly, and intentionally failed to pay Plaintiffs minimum prevailing wages and overtime
24 pay due.
25

63. Plaintiffs, having been illegally deprived of the minimum prevailing wages, overtime pay and meal period premiums to which they were legally entitled, herein seek restitution of such unpaid wages pursuant to the Business and Professions Code §17203.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for the following relief:

1. For compensatory damages per California Labor Code §1194 for unpaid minimum prevailing and overtime wages, in the amount to be proved at trial;
2. For compensatory damages and liquidated damages per 29 U.S.C. § 216 for unpaid overtime wages, in the amount to be proved at trial
3. For unpaid prevailing wage promised to Plaintiffs as the third party beneficiary;
4. For premium pay for missed meal periods;
5. For actual damages sustained as result of Defendant's failure to provide required accurate pay statement or for penalty as prescribed under Labor Code § 226;
6. For "waiting-time" penalties under California Labor Code §203.
7. For restitution of unpaid minimum prevailing wage, overtime pay and meal/rest period premium pay;
8. For pre-judgment interest of 10% on the unpaid prevailing wage, overtime compensation and unpaid minimum wage under California Labor Code §§ 1194(a);
9. For reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to California Labor Code §1194(a);
10. For costs of suit herein; and
11. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem appropriate.

Dated: June 19, 2008

By: /s/ Adam Wang.
Adam Wang
Attorney for Plaintiffs